Federal City Performing Arts Association
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 10, 1996
2801 M St, NW, Washington, DC

DIRECTORS:	Present:	Cohen, Eadie, Dorr, Gerard, Madigan, Peirce, Perkins, Rosen, Wheeler, Weeks, York.
	Absent:	de Keyser (no proxy assigned), Greenwald (unrestricted proxy assigned to Madigan).
STAFF:		Holloway, McClelland.
GUESTS:		Rod Fiorito, Charlie Merk.

I. Call to Order

Meeting Called to Order at 7:00 pm by Wheeler.

II. Approval of Minutes

Minutes from the March 19th, 1996, meeting were unavailable in time for action at this meeting. This item was tabled until the May meeting.

III. President's Report

Wheeler presented the quarterly status report on the goals and objectives from the Executive Committee.

IV. Business Manager's Report

McClelland presented the Month 9 (March) closing report. Significant highlights included:

- Year-to-date (YTD) revenue continues to be below budget, particularly in the ticket areas;
- YTD ticket revenue is above the same time last year reflecting the increase in ticket prices over last year, but since actual tickets sold has remained constant, total revenues are significantly below budget;
- YTD other revenue is both on budget and constant relative to last year at this time;
- Auction revenues exceeded budget by over $13,000 and last year by over $15,000, offsetting deficits in Special Performances, CD sales, and Fund Raising;
- YTD expenditures are approximately $13,000 over budget, primarily in programs, production costs, catering, and GALA V fees;
- Bottom-line: YTD actuals are almost $29,000 worse than budgeted, meaning a deficit of approximately $59,000 for the year (including the planned $30,000 deficit).

Perkins moved, Gerard seconded, to accept the report as presented.
Unanimous in Favor. Report accepted.

V. Music Director's Report

Holloway presented his report. Significant highlights included:

- Summer Showcase is in production mode and progressing smoothly;
- CD recording session for a CDII is being planned, tentatively for May 11th.

VI. Executive Director's Report

Wheeler informed the Board that Monell was representing FCPAA at the Washington Cultural Alliance black tie gala awards dinner. Monell's report was distributed and members were asked to review it and call Monell with questions.

VII. Election Committee

Peirce informed the Board that a committee and calendar was being assembled and would be ready for the May board meeting. Discussion was held regarding the date for the Annual Meeting which then dictates the election schedule.

Perkins moved, Dorr seconded, to hold the Annual Meeting on June 30th in the late afternoon. Unanimous in favor. Motion approved.

VIII. Programming Task Force Report

Fiorito presented a status report on the task force's activities indicating they had found that focusing on programming alone without looking at the "total concert experience" was shortsighted and limited the options available to them to find ways to strengthen audience satisfaction, and hence attendance, as well as member satisfaction.

A discussion was held where most comments were positive about the task force's progress to date. Members were encouraged by the group's commitment and the direction in which they were moving.

Gerard moved, York seconded, to expand the role of the Programming Task Force to include the "Total Concert Experience" as defined by the task force.
Unanimous in favor. Motion approved.

IX. Spring Concert Feedback Session

Wheeler asked for two comments about the spring concert from each board member, one for an aspect of the concert that went well and one for an aspect that could use improvement. Items cited included:

Items that went well

- Entertaining & professional, flawless production;
- Best sound ever heard in Lizner;
- Well balanced production, funny and musical;
- Rehearsals were well organized;
- Dress & Tech rehearsals were true dress and tech;
- Creativity in subject matter;
- House decorations contributed well to feel & look;
- Strong marketing;
- Felt confident that it would work going into production;
- The fun and commradarie of the chorus came through, looked like everyone was having fun;
- Participation of ROTC added a lot to the evening;
- Production ran smoothly;
- Writers did marvelous job, great transitions;
- Chorus on stage the entire evening;
- Lots of impressive work, held the audience.

Items that could use improvement

- Sound system was not great, music sounded "produced", not balanced up close to stage;
- Chorus members didn't sell tickets;
- Should have gotten Joan Cushing to rehearsal earlier;
- Production should start with curtain, announcements should be after intermission;
- How to fill the house on Friday;
- Rivard didn't get acknowledged at curtain call;
- Balloons didn't work well;
- Would like a larger audience;
- Did not receive a standing ovation.

X. New Business

Brief discussion was held regarding the proposed printer for the Support Section. General sentiment expressed was that the Board might support a purchase that was in line with the needs of the group but that the current proposal of over $1,000 did not meet that criteria. Members expressed an expectation to revisit this issue once the use and needs have been clearly defined and a cost-effective solution identified.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business,

Perkins moved, Eadie seconded, to adjourn the meeting. Unanimous in favor. Meeting adjourned at 8:42 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeffrey R. Peirce, Secretary, FCPAA